



Legislative Bulletin.....January 23, 2002

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H.R. 700—Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act (Saxton)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 23rd under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. H.R. 700 passed the House on June 12, 2001, by a vote of 401-15 (roll call #156). On December 18, 2001, the Senate passed H.R. 700 by unanimous consent, as amended in the Environment and Public Works Committee. Today's House consideration of the bill is for concurrence in the Senate amendment.

Summary (Senate amendment in red bold): H.R. 700, as amended, would reauthorize through FY2007 the Asian Elephant Conservation Act (first authorized for FY1998-FY2002) at a maximum of **\$5 million per fiscal year** (same as current law). Specifically, this bill would authorize appropriations to the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, used by the Secretary of the Interior for research and conservation programs overseas. Only \$1 million of the \$5 million authorized was actually appropriated in FY2001. The current authorization expires on October 1, 2002.

The bill would cap administrative expenses related to Asian elephant conservation at not more than 6% of appropriated funds or \$80,000 per fiscal year, whichever is less.

H.R. 700 would also extend the authorization for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Act (currently set to expire in FY2003) through FY2005 and would increase its annual authorization of funding (from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) from \$20 million (current law) to \$25 million.

Additional Background: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Asian Elephant Conservation Program. According to the *National Journal*, 35- to 45-thousand Asian elephants live in 13 countries (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, China, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia). Their survival reportedly is threatened by the conversion of forest habitat to farms and villages.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 700 as amended by the Senate would authorize \$5.0 million more than current law in FY2002 and **\$90.0 million more than current law** in the FY2002-FY2006 period. The bill would have no effect on mandatory spending.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No, it reauthorizes current law.

Constitutional Authority: The House Resources Committee (in House Report 107-94) cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

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H.R. 2234—Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act (*Pastor*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 23rd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2234 would authorize the revision of the boundaries of the Tumacacori National Historical Park in southern Arizona to include approximately 310 additional acres of land adjacent to the park as it currently exists. The adjacent land is privately-owned and would have to be purchased by the National Park Service from willing sellers. The bill would authorize the development of this additional land by the National Park Service to make it accessible to visitors.

Additional Background: The Tumacacori National Historical Park, established in 1990 and consisting of about 46 acres, includes the Tumacacori Mission (established as a National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908) and the ruins of the mission of Los Santos Angeles de Guevavi and the Kino visita and rancheria of Calabazas. These ruins are linked to early Spanish missionaries and explorers of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that H.R. 2234 would authorize appropriations of about **\$3 million** in the FY2002-FY2006 period and \$100,000 annually thereafter. \$2 to \$2.5 million of this amount would be for the purchase of the surrounding acres, while approximately \$350,000 in the subsequent two or three years would be used to improve a trail system and renovate an orchard on the property. Recurring maintenance costs would be about \$100,000 per year. The bill would have no effect on mandatory spending.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: The bill would authorize an eight-fold increase in the size of a National Historical Park in Arizona—from 46 acres to 356 acres.

Constitutional Authority: The House Resources Committee (in House Report 107-327) cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8 (but fails to cite a specific clause); and Article IV, Section 3 (congressional power to “dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States”) .

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**H.Res. _____ Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding
the benefits of mentoring (Osborne)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, January 23rd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has nine findings regarding mentoring, including that research has shown that mentoring increases school attendance, provides guidance and stability to children, and that a national mentoring month would encourage more individuals to volunteers as mentors. The resolution also expresses the sense of the House that mentoring relationships can benefit America's youth and result in improved school attendance and academic achievement.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee report is unavailable.

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